



Congressman Wally Herger

Reports from Washington

107th Congress - Second Session

Volume One



Dear Friends:

The second session of the 107th Congress has started at a fast pace. Looking back at the end of 2001, we can mark many successes at home and abroad: our troops fought with valor in Afghanistan and succeeded in deposing the oppressive Taliban regime; nations around the world are working together against the evils of terrorism and the al Qaeda organization; America's economy is beginning a gradual recovery. While our country has come a long way since September 11, our mission in the war on terrorism is far from complete. We will continue to pursue terrorists worldwide. We will terminate their funding sources. We will disrupt future attacks and we will hold accountable those rogue nations that create safe haven for terrorism to exist.

Now that our armed forces are preparing to embark on new missions in the war on terrorism, America will continue to lead the world by example, at home and overseas, in domestic and foreign policy. President Bush outlined a plan in his State of the Union Address to promote economic recovery, bolster our national defense and further strengthen homeland security. In the days ahead, Congress will address these issues and others, such as the reauthorization of the successful 1996 welfare reform law. I will also continue to promote the modernization of our species protection laws and the need to provide increased flood protections and water storage in Northern California.

As we pursue these objectives, it is important that we remain committed to the principles of fiscal discipline. Short term solutions and excessive government spending will hinder rather than help recovery efforts. With the tax burden at the highest level in peacetime history, I firmly believe the best way to get our economy back on track is to allow people to keep more of their hard-earned money. Last year's tax relief law was a monumental success for the American family. The passage of a new stimulus bill in the House of Representatives brings us one step closer to sending this important legislation to the President to be signed into law.

As always, your thoughts and input are valuable to me as we make decisions here in Washington. This report contains a questionnaire that I hope you will fill out and return. In addition, I will be holding a town hall meeting in each of the 10 counties making up our Northern California Congressional District. I encourage you to attend one of the meetings and let me know how I can better serve you.



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Sincerely,

WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress

Inside this Issue

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Town Hall Meeting Schedule

I will be holding a series of town hall meetings throughout our Congressional District. Town hall meetings are an excellent opportunity to influence what happens in Congress. I hope you and your neighbors will come and participate by asking questions, offering comments and helping me to better represent you.



Congressman Herger's Web Site has a new look!
Log on and check it out for yourself at
<http://www.house.gov/herger>.



Legislative Update

Congressman Herger

Cosponsored H.R. 2829, the "Sound Science for Endangered Species Planning Act of 2001" - updates the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to require sound, peer reviewed science, empirical evidence and field-tested data in ESA decisions. Provides for greater public involvement in ESA decisions prior to their enactment. (Introduced in House)

Supported H.R. 622, the "Economic Security and Worker Assistance Act of 2002" - provides tax incentives for economic recovery and assistance to workers displaced following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. (Passed in House, Pending in Senate)

Cosponsored H.R. 2828, the "Klamath Basin Emergency Operation and Maintenance Refund Act of 2001" - allows the refunding of fees paid for irrigation water not delivered in 2001 due to the government water shutoff in the Klamath Basin of Northern California. (Passed in House, Pending in Senate)

Voted for H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act" - proposes a comprehensive national energy policy to increase energy efficiency and reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources of oil. (Passed in House, Pending in Senate)

Wednesday, April 3

Paradise

9:00 AM - Paradise Town Hall
5555 Skyway

Redding

1:30 PM - Redding City Council Chambers
777 Cypress Avenue

Weaverville

5:00 PM - Trinity County Library
211 N. Main Street

Thursday, April 4

Yreka

10:00 AM - Yreka High School
431 Knapp Street

Alturas

2:00 PM - Alturas City Council Chambers
200 W. North Street

Friday, April 5

Downieville

10:00 AM - Sierra County Board of Supervisors
100 Courthouse Square

Nevada City

2:00 PM - Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue

Marysville

5:00 PM - Yuba County One Stop
1114 Yuba Street

Saturday, April 20

Quincy

9:00 AM - Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds
Mineral Building - 204 Fairgrounds Road

Susanville

1:00 PM - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
707 Nevada Street

Service Academy Applications

As your member of Congress, I have the honor of recommending young men and women for appointment to our nation's service academies. These fine schools include the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. These institutions provide the unique opportunity to train for a career as an officer in our armed forces.

Appointments are available to young men and women between 17 and 22 years of age who are residents of our Congressional District. The application deadline is October 31, 2002. If you are interested in this unique educational experience, please call my office at 530-893-8363, or write me at the following address:

Rep. Wally Herger
55 Independence Circle, Suite 104
Chico, CA 95973



The October discovery of biological contaminants at the Capitol complex interrupted consistent mail delivery to the House of Representatives. Normal deliveries have not yet fully resumed.

Should you wish to submit your questionnaire online, you may do so at <http://www.house.gov/herger>. As always, your input is important to me.

Thank you for your patience.



Congressman Herger speaks to Chico Webelos Troop # 423 about the importance of community service and volunteering. The group of nine and ten-year-olds interviewed Herger in preparation for completing their "Citizenship" merit badge.

Please mark your responses, cut out this page and fold so return address on other side faces outward.

[illegible]

Congressman Wally Herger
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Place
Stamp
Here

Return Address (please print)
Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____
Zip Code _____

Species Preservation and the ESA: Politics or Science?

Many of you may remember last summer’s dramatic national headlines about how, under the auspices of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a few federal biologists turned off 100% of the water to 1,500 family farmers in the Klamath Basin of Northern California, shutting down an entire community. After reviewing the science, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the most highly respected scientific body in this country, concluded, “there was no scientific or technical information to justify that decision.” That’s correct. The NAS found that there was absolutely no justification for a decision that stripped 1,500 family farmers of their livelihoods, drove a community of 70,000 to the brink of economic collapse and changed the lives of thousands of people forever.

You may have also heard of the discovery that federal officials intentionally planted hair from the threatened Canadian Lynx in our national forests to skew a study, which would ultimately determine the geographic scope of the ESA’s land use restrictions. In another case, an investigation into the deaths of four wildland firefighters

last summer revealed that an airborne water drop that could have saved their lives was delayed because of concerns about endangered fish.

You might ask, how could an entire farming community be sacrificed at the stroke of a bureaucrat’s pen, based on nothing more than guesswork? How could data be so easily manipulated? How could a federal law come into conflict with the preservation of human life? Because the ESA has veered far off course. In the hands of radical environmentalists, this well-intentioned law is now used as a tool to lock up land, take water and halt development. Fear, misinformation and litigation have replaced common sense, balance and science-based decisions. The consequences for public health, community safety and our economy have been tragic.

America is a country where technological and scientific advances have enabled us to achieve that which was once considered impossible. We’ve walked on the moon and turned deserts into productive farm land. Likewise, I’m certain we can both protect species and provide for human needs. It need not be an either/or proposition.

Now is the time to update the ESA to ensure that future decisions will be solidly grounded in fact and science, supported by all available evidence. Only then will we be able to truly protect the environment and ensure that Americans are safeguarded from the calculated misuse of our current species protection laws.



Pictured with Anthony Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Congressman Herger discusses the need for additional veteran health care funding in the north state. Herger continues to work to provide adequate health services for area veterans, including access to the successful mobile unit van.

Congressman
Wally Herger



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Official Business

Wally Herger
M.C.
Presorted Standard

Reports from Washington
Questionnaire and Town Hall Schedule